GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:228
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2007
SAFFRON CULTIVATION
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme to increase saffron cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and assistance provided to saffron growers during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase areas under saffron during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal` to address various issues related to development of horticulture which include increase in area under saffron cultivation. During the last three years, an amount of Rs.84.50 lakhs has been released to Government of J&K for cultivation of spices including saffron. The details of assistance provided for cultivation of spices including saffron during last three years is as under:

Year	Amount released (Rs. In lakh)
2004-05	15.60
2005-06	26.00
2006-07	42.90

(c)to(e): Based on the demand and action plans prepared by the State Governments, the Ministry of Agriculture would support the proposals for increase in area under saffron cultivation during Eleventh Five Year plan.